

# Dentistry in South Australia

- the early years
  - practice
  - legislation
  - education
  - services





**Saint Apollonia – the patron saint of dentistry**



**Tooth worm theory of decay**



Johannes Lingelbach (1651)

**....a quick getaway?**

- **practice**

## **1833-4 Wakefield Plan and the South Australia Act**

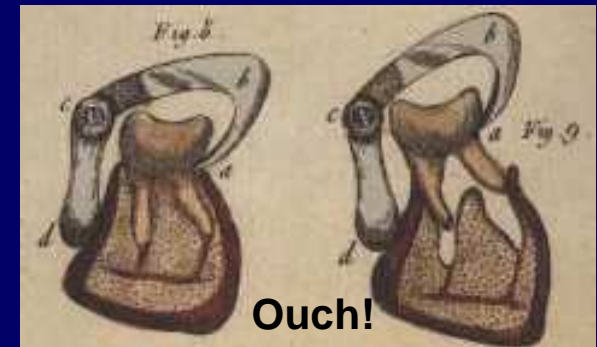
### **1836 settlement**

- until 1840, extractions only were provided by surgeons, blacksmiths, apothecaries and other enthusiastic amateurs

### **1840 Bayldon & Co. (chemists) and Mr Durie (surgeon)**

- located in Hindley Street, offered “all operations of dentistry and the supply of artificial teeth”
  - ▶ Molars were extracted (usually shattered) with the key
  - ▶ Single-rooted teeth were extracted with prototype forceps
- “speed, brawn and a firmly held patient....”**

- **practice**



- ▶ Caries was (mostly) removed with crude hand drills or excavators and “stopped” with gold or tin foil
  - the Amalgam War, charlatans and organized dentistry
- ▶ Full dentures were carved from ivory, sometimes gold base plates
  - denture teeth were recycled human or bovine
- ▶ Gum disease (periodontitis) was called “pyorrhoea alveolaris”
  - cupping, blood-letting and scarification of the gums
- ▶ Oral hygiene was rudimentary
- ▶ Ethics were flexible
  - secrets were jealously guarded and only shared with apprentices
  - i.e. preceptorship and a mild form of slavery was the norm

**Rowland's "Odonto or Pearl Dentifrice" was 2/9<sup>d</sup> and duty free in 1842....**

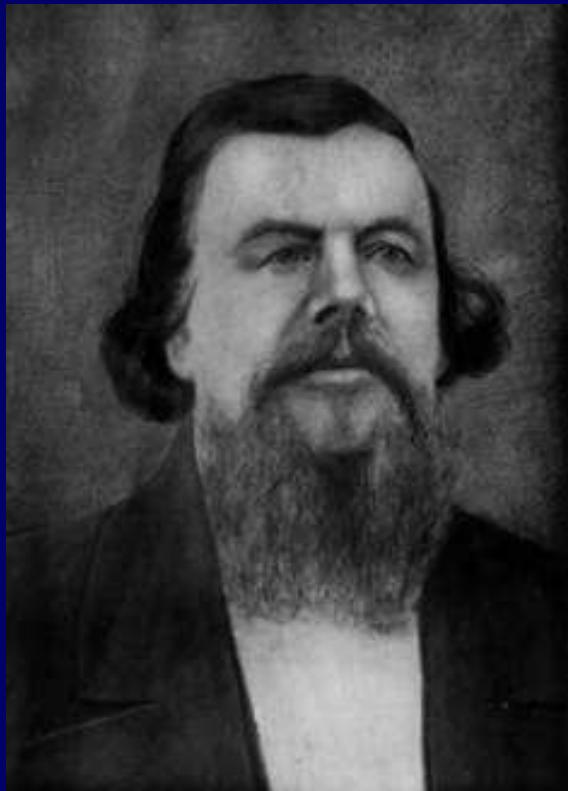
"A white powder of Oriental herbs of the most delightful fragrance. Eradicates tartar and decay spots from the teeth, preserves the enamel and fixes the teeth firmly in their sockets, rendering them delicately white.

Being anti-scorbutic it eradicates the scurvy from the gums, strengthens, braces and renders them of a healthy red; it removes unpleasant tastes from the mouth which often remain after fevers, taking medicine, etc., and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath."

- practice

## 1844 Robert Norman

- South Australia's first dental surgeon
- a cultured man: fluent in Irish, French and Italian



fine tenor, literateur and Shakespearian scholar

highly skilled and dextrous practitioner

excellent billiardist

accomplished swordsman

member Royal College of Dentists

member Odontological Society of England

first to practice on North Terrace

Corporal Coles' hand

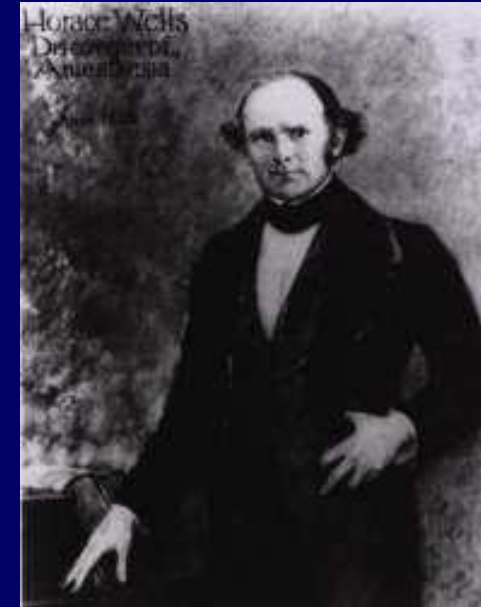




- practice

**1844** Horace Wells

- Connecticut dentist, introduced nitrous oxide anaesthesia
- his demonstration failed and he was ridiculed



**1846** William Morton

- Boston dentist, successfully demonstrated ether anaesthesia



- practice

**1849 Mr Pardoe**

- “all operations peculiar to dentistry, including the regulation of children’s teeth and the fitting of false noses and palates”.



syphilis?

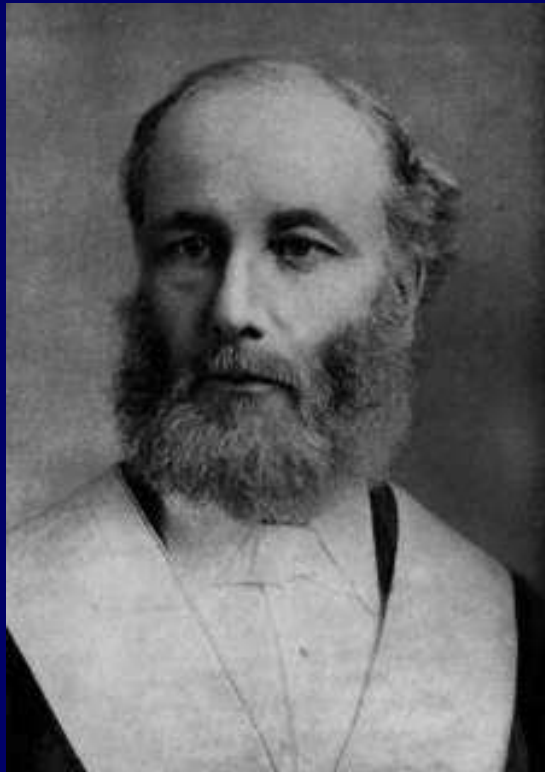


Britain’s Colonial Secretary (Earl Grey) said there should be a Federation of Australian Colonies but S.A. feared the eastern colonies would dominate

- **practice**

## **1850's** Dentist numbers increased to 12

- J.R. Gurner was the first to practice with L.D.S.,R.C.S.
- laughing gas was in use



The Victorian gold rush and Adelaide sovereign

The term “Dental Surgeon” evolved into “Surgeon Dentist” and “Mechanical Dentist”

1850: S.A. first government-owned railway

1851: S.A. first to abolish religious State Aid

1855: our own postage stamp

1856: S.A. first to introduce 3-year elections, one man one vote, and secret ballots (a world first)

- practice

**1859** First dental appointment to the Adelaide Hospital

- J.R. Gurner and E.A. Phillips

**1860's** Solomon Meyers



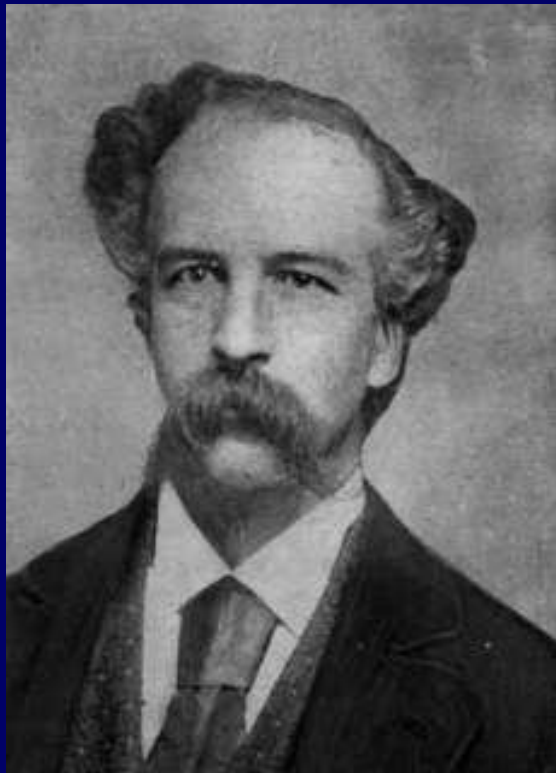
first to practice at Port Adelaide later at Glenelg  
suction or “self-adhesion” plates became available  
T. Sampson practiced in Mt. Gambier in 1864  
(not a known relative!)

The Real Property Act (Robert Richard Torrens)  
John McDouell Stuart v.s. Burke and Wills in 1861  
- reaches Darwin in 1862

- practice

**1870's** Many qualified dentists arrived from England

- Nelson Newbolt Blackmore practiced at F.H. Fauldings' premises



gold, platinum and vulcanite were in use

The 1878 Sewers act saw Adelaide become the first Australian city to be sewerred in 1880-1

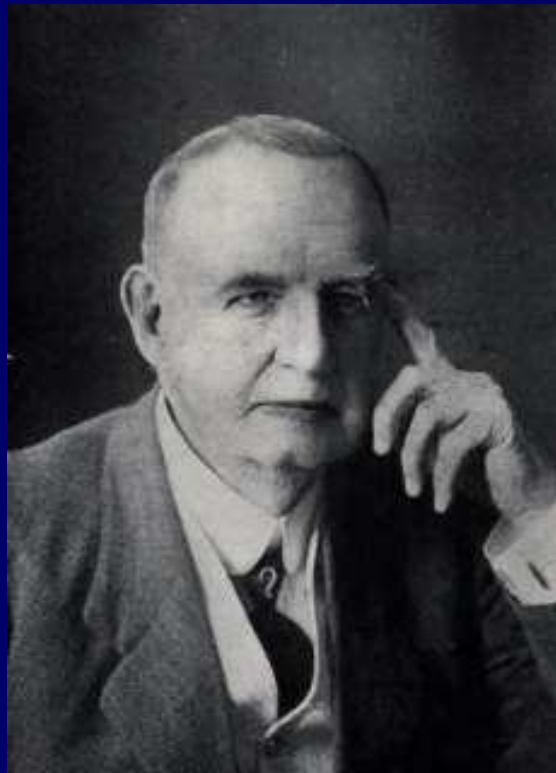
1870: Adelaide to Darwin telegraph started

- connection to the world in 1872

- practice

## 1880's Herbert Hayes Norman

- son of Robert Norman and had a telephone in 1888
- graduated D.D.S. from New Orleans dental College 1871



cocaine appeared as a local anaesthetic

Adelaide and Melbourne were linked by railway and dentists “visited” e.g. G.W.Trott

American dentistry became advertised

Charles H. Land (grandfather of Charles Lindberg) invented porcelain jacket crowns

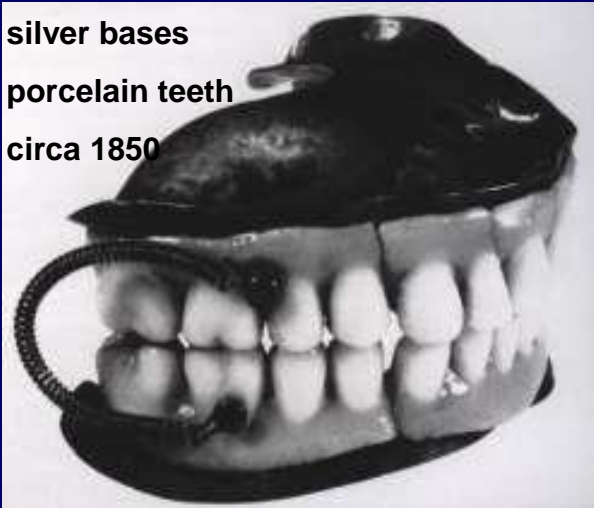
Acute depression struck with collapse of the land boom

# ● practice

carved ivory base  
human teeth  
circa 1840



silver bases  
porcelain teeth  
circa 1850



all porcelain  
1868



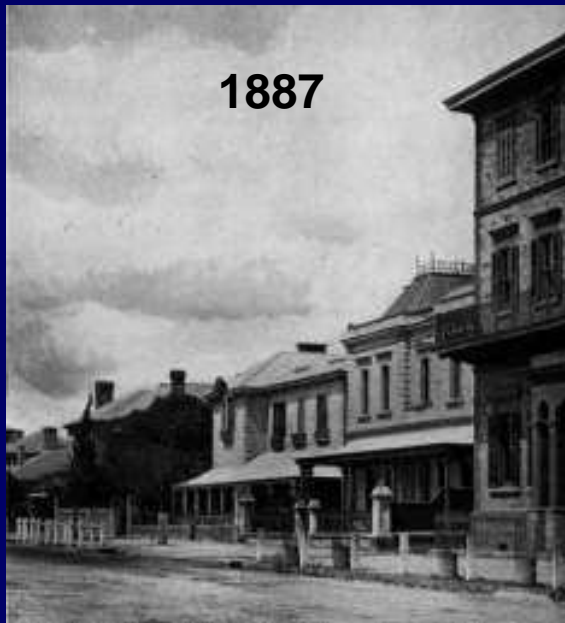
celluloid  
1880



- **practice**

## **North Terrace**

- “the most beautiful boulevard in the Southern Hemisphere”
- home (literally) to many dentists
- but even in the 1880’s sheep and cattle were herded to market at the western end of North terrace so.... mind your step





- **practice**

**1890's An influx of dentists with variable qualifications**

- dental companies, institutes, dental parlours
- charlatanism, competitive advertising and intense price-cutting
- it is thought the passing of the Dentists' Act in Victoria caused this
- most practices were concentrated to:

Rundle and Hindley Streets (between Pulteney and Leigh)

King William Street (North Terrace to Victoria Square)

Flinders Street (from Pulteney to Victoria Square)

North Terrace (from Pulteney to Bank)

Women's voting rights (1894) and Federation Convention (1897)

First dental radiographs demonstrated in 1914

## ● legislation

### 1901 Louis Von Doussa M.P.

- S.A. was the last state to introduce statutory control of dentistry
- needed due to complaints about treatment standards
- Bill withdrawn over disagreement regarding supervision and what represented acceptable qualifications
- first Dental Act assented to November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1902
- registration in another state unacceptable (Mutual Recognition?)
- Board administered examinations began in 1905
- 1907 the Odontological society formed and recommended that a degree or Diploma course be established

Federation and the River Murray

- education

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- preceptorship and articles of apprenticeship (usually 3-6 years)
- “payment of certain premiums”+ family status = quality of training
- in 1846, Robert Norman placed this advertisement:

A gentlemanly youth, who would be taken as a pupil for a period of 3 or 5 years

- a mild form of slavery, little pay and even household chores

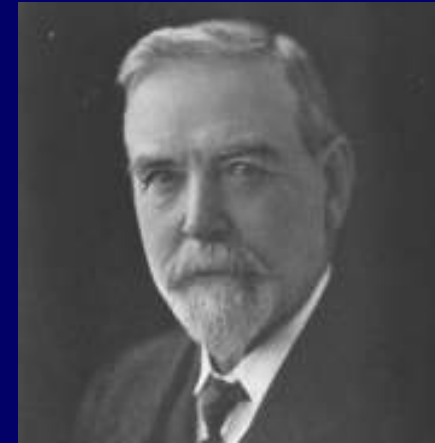
## ● education

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- 1903: Dental Board registration needed 4 years of articulated apprenticeship and passing a prescribed examination
- after 1906, articles of apprenticeship not accepted without passing the Junior Public Examinations, University of Adelaide in 6 subjects
- 1907: standard raised to Senior Public Examination in 5 subjects which was actually University matriculation
- 1908: the Odontological Society of SA urged establishment of a dental hospital and training facility
- 1917: special allowances made for operative assistants and veterans of The Great War

## ● education

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century



- 1919: the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery began under the aegis of the Faculty of Medicine
- April 1920, Council regulations passed and an independent Faculty of Dentistry began with Sir Joseph Verco as Dean in 1921
- the first Dental School was part of the Old Exhibition Building, east side of Frome Road, where the Military Dental Dept was
- July 1923: the first Dental Hospital opened on the present site
  - Joseph Verco convinced the British Red Cross Society to give £15,000 and the SA Government gave £10,000
- 1923: research and PG study supported (Doctor of Dental Science)
- 1927: course revised to G.M.C. and became 5 years in 1930



**Linda Lovibond Thompson**

- first female graduate in 1926



**Winifred Preedy**

- first female dental surgeon (1928)

Dental Department, Adelaide Hospital

## ● services

### Public

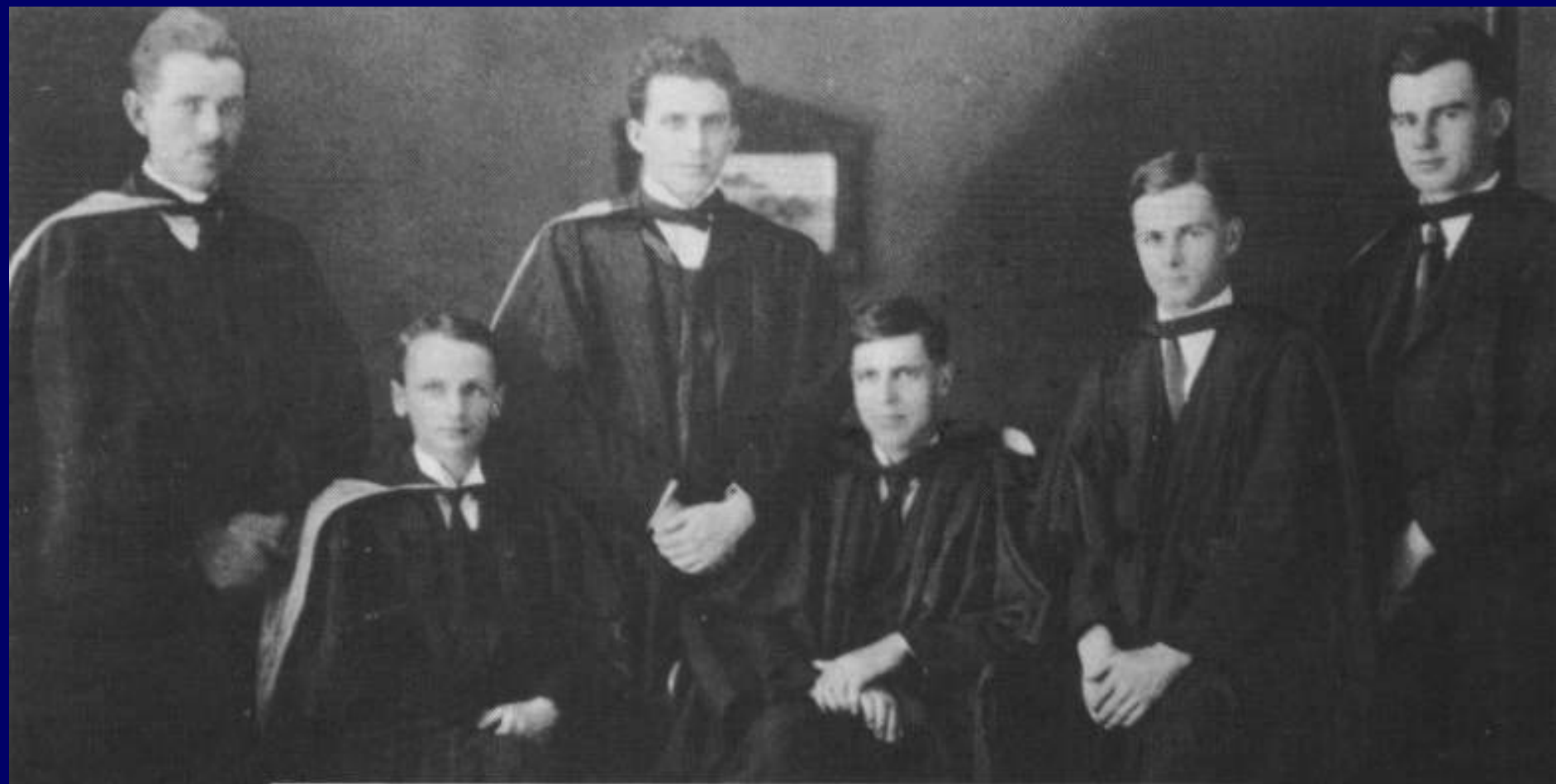
- 1859: first dental appointment to The Adelaide Hospital
- mostly, charitable offerings by public spirited private dentists
- WW 1 revealed the poor dental health of the population
- 1920: report of the British Science Guild (SA Branch) showed the poor state of state school children's teeth and school dental clinics recommended to the Minister of Education
- March 1922 saw 1 dentist appointed for a trial year
- Director of Education introduced bursaries to ensure a supply of qualified officers but stopped with The Great Depression
- 1927: trained dental nurses suggested (as in N.Z.)
- 1928: City Dental Clinic transferred to the Dental Hospital

## ● services

### **Military**

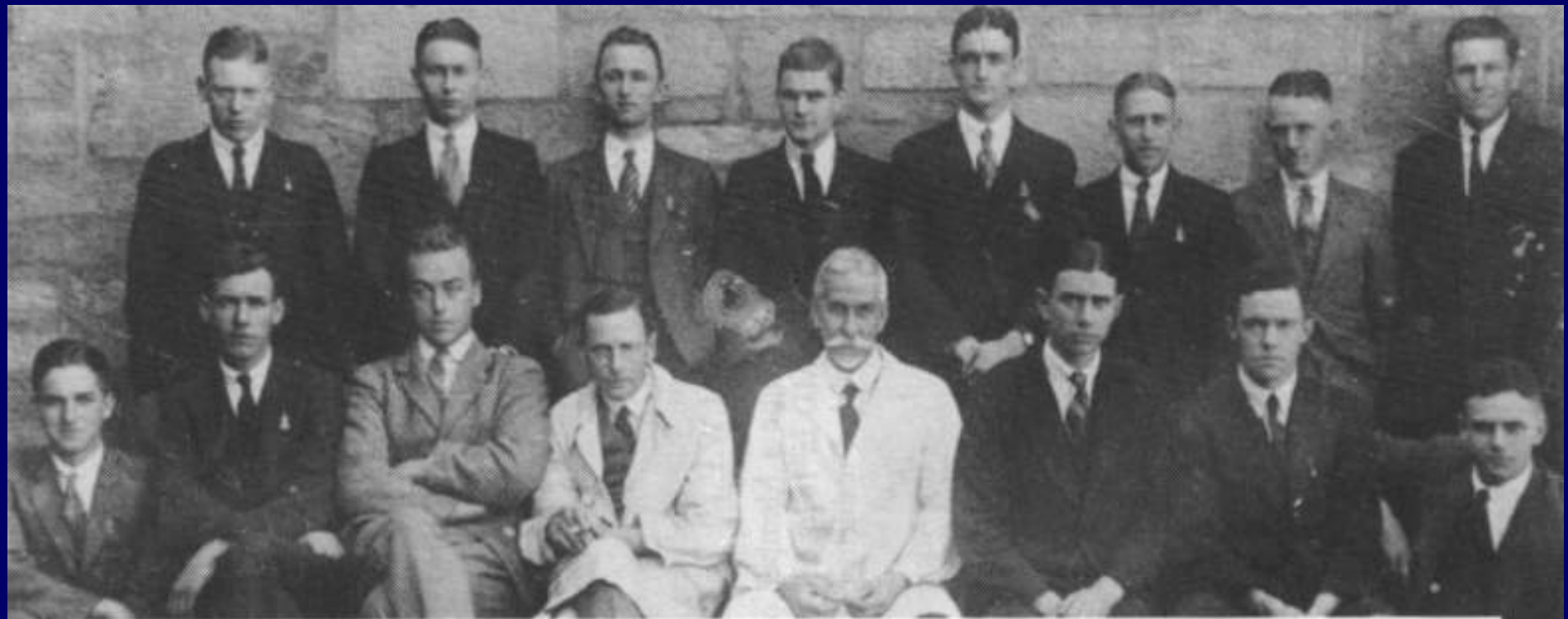
- before WW 1, no provision except officers treated privately
- 1915: AIF recruits only examined by M.O.
- later in 1915, one S.D.O. appointed as Hon. Captain and 6 others as Hon. Lieutenants to examine enlistees
- 1915: Dental Units at Mitcham, Keswick and Exhibition camps
- August 1915, 6 dental officers based in Egypt as Dental Corps
- April 1916: there were 36 Dental Units in the A.A.M.C.
- by deployment to France, a dental section was attached to each Field Ambulance
- 3 S.A. dentists died in military service





**1921 GRADUATES**

**THE FIRST DENTAL GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE**  
(l-r) H.T.J. Edwards (Jack), T.D. Campbell (Draper), R.J. Brazil Smith (Bob), J.L. Eustace (Bob), A.P.R. Moore (Arthur), J.E. O'Donnell (John).



#### **THE DENTAL STUDENTS' ANATOMY CLASS OF 1926**

**Back row (l-r): E.S. Chapman (Chappie), J.W. Pitcher (John), C.R. Forder (Rex), C.A. Burns (Chester), W.A.W. Evans (Walter), H.F. Sudholz (Bert), T.J. Lee (Tommy), E. Eldridge (anatomy assistant).**

**Front row (l-r): J.V. Christophersen (Jack), R.C. Hall (Reg), A.B. Bateman (Cheerio), Prof. Wood-Jones, Dr. C. Silas Mead (anatomy lecturer), R.H.G. Taylor (Bob), H.M. Wilson (Max), A.J. George (Bert).**

**Professor Wood-Jones was not only a fine anatomist; he was also a keen anthropologist and encouraged some of his students in this study, Draper Campbell in particular.**

**Photographs of the anatomy classes were taken primarily for security reasons and to discourage any unauthorised person from gaining access to the old anatomy building, which was then almost in the centre of the University campus.**

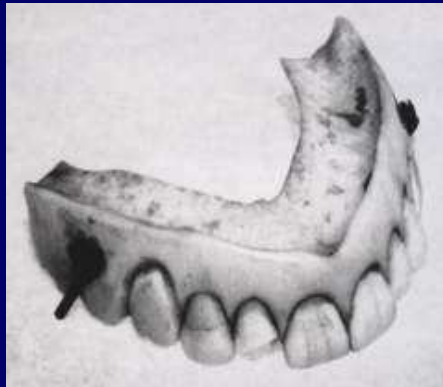
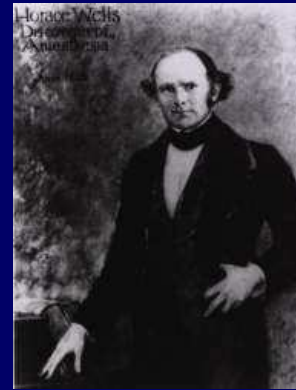
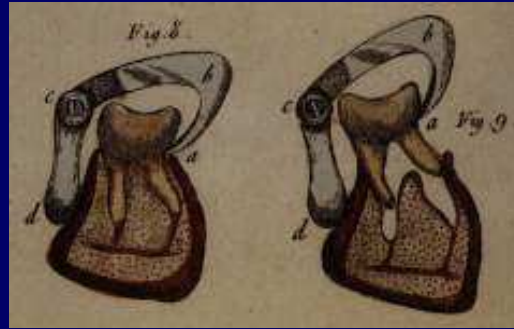


**The first dental hospital**

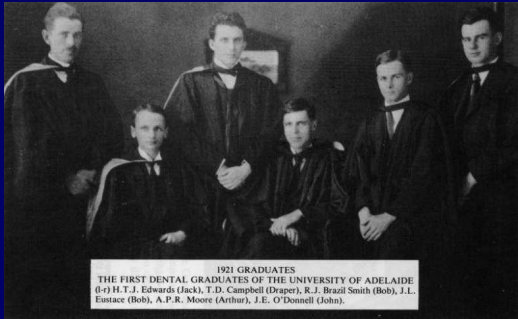


**The present dental hospital**

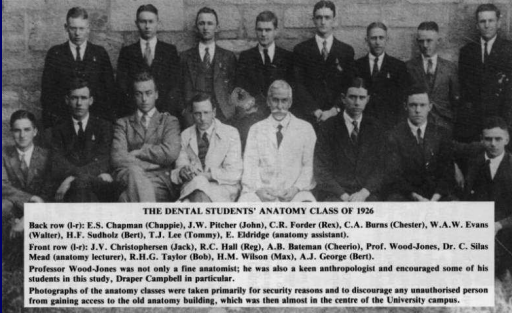
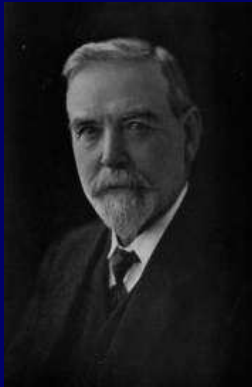
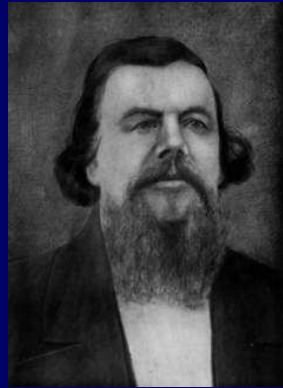
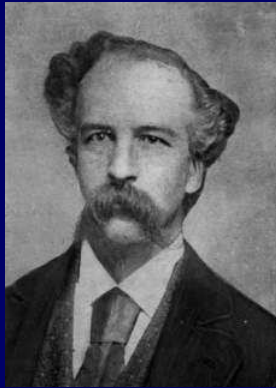
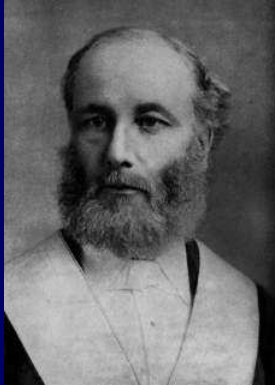
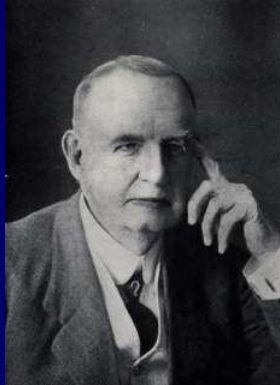








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