



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

Dr Ernest Sandford Jackson (1860-1938)

Ernest Sandford Jackson graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1881 and left his home in Melbourne for Queensland in 1882.

Jackson was first appointed Assistant House Surgeon at Brisbane Hospital in 1882, and was the Medical Superintendent from 1886 to 1898. He was then Visiting Surgeon until 1933.

During his years as Medical Superintendent, Jackson made an impact, and played a leading role in the dispute between the salaried and honorary medical staff in the early 1890s.

A strict disciplinarian, Jackson saw patient care as paramount. He established a series of "instructive lectures" for nurses and formed the first School of Nursing at the Brisbane Hospital in 1886.

On his suggestion, a club was formed in 1889 for the general welfare of nurses. Over time conditions improved for nurses, including reduced working hours to 11 or 12 per day.

World War I had a significant impact on the Brisbane Hospital with many medical, nursing and other staff enlisting.

In November 1914, Jackson left Australia with the Australian Imperial Force as a Major in the 1st Australian General Hospital and was appointed senior surgeon at 2 AGH. After serving in Egypt, he was invalided home after developing pneumonia and empyema, and resumed his work at Brisbane Hospital in 1916.

There were no Resident Medical Officers at Brisbane Hospital between May and September 1917 and Jackson slept two nights a week in the hospital, prior to his morning operating list.

Jackson was a founding father of the University of Queensland medical school and also of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Queensland. He was a foundation member of the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association and was its President numerous times.

ES Jackson was considered an outstanding figure and pioneer in the surgical world of Brisbane for four decades, and gave 51 years of service to the Brisbane Hospital.

