



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

Dr James Mayne (1861-1939)

Dr James O'Neil Mayne was a Resident Medical Officer at the Brisbane Hospital from 1891 until 1898 when he was appointed Medical Superintendent. He resigned in 1904 due to ill-health.

Described as courteous, gentle and shy, Dr Mayne was a major benefactor to the University of Queensland.

In 1901, a Visiting Physician witnessed Mayne, assisted by Resident Medical Officer John Barr McLean and Nurse Fletcher, performing a tracheotomy on a patient with [pneumonic] plague, voluntarily exposing themselves in order to relieve the suffering of a dying man.

When working at the Brisbane Hospital, Dr Mayne donated his salary to the hospital and paid for its first X-ray plant.

James and Mary Emelia were the youngest of five children to Irish parents Patrick Mayne, a butcher and grazier, and his wife Mary, nee McIntosh.

The siblings donated their entire estate to benefit medical education at the University of Queensland. They also donated 280 hectares at Pinjarra Hills, now the site of the Veterinary Science Farm.

It took several years for the University of Queensland to be built, and the Mayne siblings did not live to see their dream fulfilled.

In 1939, as the sandstone-clad buildings were taking shape at St Lucia, Dr James Mayne died and his sister Mary Emelia passed away in 1940.

Their names have been perpetuated by the Mayne Medical School, Mayne Hall and The James Mayne and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre, housing the University Art Museum. The Estate bequeathed 30 art works to the University of Queensland collection in 1948. They are also commemorated by the Mayne chairs of medicine and surgery and the Mayne String Trio

The eastern block of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital is named in honour of Dr James Mayne. The building houses the Department of Emergency, Professor Tess Cramond Multidisciplinary Pain Centre, Professor Stuart Pegg Burns Unit, Trauma Service, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Psychology and Cardiology.

A statue of Dr Mayne can be seen outside the main entrance of the UQ medical school in Herston.

