



Lt-Col. Lewis Wibmer Jeffries

OBE, DSO, MiD



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1906

Sports Awards: Blue (Lacrosse 1908)

Degree: MB BS (1907)

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of Lewis Wibmer Jeffries. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=153090>




Lewis Wibmer JEFFRIES

Date of birth	4 September 1884
Place of birth	Derby England
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Medical practitioner
Address	Defence Terrace, North Adelaide, South Australia
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	30
Next of kin	Father, Rev William Jeffries, Defence Terrace, North Adelaide, South Australia
Enlistment date	2 October 1914
Rank on enlistment	Captain
Unit name	Field Ambulance 4, Section B
AWM Embarkation Roll number	26/47/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board TRANSPORT A35 <i>Berrima</i> on 22 December 1914
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant-Colonel
Unit from Nominal Roll	Australian Army Medical Corps
Promotions	Captain Unit: MED Fld Amb Promotion date: 2 October 1914 Temporary MAJ Unit: MED Fld Amb 4 Promotion date: 8 June 1916
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Mention in Despatches Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 29890 (2 January 1917); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 103 (29 June 1917). Mention in Despatches Awarded, and promulgated, 'London Gazette', second Supplement, No. 30107 (1 June 1917); 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 169 (4 October 1917).
Fate	Effective abroad (still overseas)
Medals	OBE Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 113 Date: 6 October 1919

Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7372302>

4th Amb.



C.M. Form A. 22.
(Revised 1.5.13.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Application for a Commission in the 4th Field Ambulance

No.	PARTICULARS.
1.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Surname ... Other names (in full) ... </div> <div> To be in block letters. ... </div> </div> <p>Jeffries JEFFRIES Lewis Wibmer. LEWIS WIBMER</p>
2.	Educational Qualifications ... (Certificate to be attached for notation at District Headquarters.)
3.	Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated) (Attention is directed to third sub-para. of C.M. Regulation 56.) If serving, present rank and corps to be stated.
4.	Present Civil Employment ...
5.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Date of Birth and Age ... (Certificate of Birth or Statutory Declaration to be attached for notation at District Headquarters.) </div> <div> Date of Birth. Age. </div> </div> <p>Aug 9 1884 30 Years 2 Months</p>
6.	If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject (In the case of the latter, date and place of Naturalization to be stated.)
7.	Married or Single
8.	Postal Address ...
9.	Next of Kin ...

PAY BOOK NO. **41313**

Date **Oct 22 1914** (Signature of Applicant) **L. Jeffries**

NOTE.—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory certificate of moral character, or, if they are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II., and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

In the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Board, in accordance with the "Instructions for the Physical Examination of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Military Forces of the Commonwealth," will be substituted for this Certificate; such Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.

I, **Frederick Hett Leffessauer** do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height **5ft 10 1/2"** Weight **156 lb**
Chest Measurement **36 1/2"** Eyesight **R 6/6 L 6/6**

Signature of the Examining Medical Officer **F. H. Leffessauer Capt.**

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

(Not required in the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces.)

I recommend that the Candidate above-named be appointed a **Captain** in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—

- (a) That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment and provision on the Estimates for the current year, or
- (b) That such appointment, although not within the authorized establishment and provision on the Estimates for the current year, will be within the number of supernumerary officers permitted under C.M. Regulation 56.
- (a) That the provisions of C.M.R. 60 have been fully complied with, or
- (b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or
- (c) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 139 have been fully complied with.

On appointment the candidate will be posted to **Reserve** Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.

Date **28 Oct 1914** Commanding **H. H. ...** Regt. or Corps.

RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.

Recommended, candidate considered suitable.

Date _____ Commanding C.M. Forces _____ Military District _____

* Sub-para (a) to be struck out if (b) applies, and vice versa. ; Sub-para. not applicable to be struck out.
N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form.
Seniority of Candidates to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.

cp8793

RSL Virtual War Memorial

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/274482>

Dr. Lewis Wibmer JEFFRIES OBE, DSO, MiD

Service Number: Officer

Enlisted: 22 October 1914, Adelaide, South Australia

Last Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Last Unit: 4th Field Ambulance

Born: Derby, England, 9 August 1884

Home Town: Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia

Schooling: Prince Alfred College & University of Adelaide

Occupation: Medical Practitioner

Died: Natural causes, Adelaide, South Australia, 6 October 1971, aged 87 years

Cemetery: Centennial Park Cemetery, South Australia

Memorials: University of Adelaide WW1 Honour Roll Mitchell Bldg*

World War 1 Service

22 Oct 1914: Enlisted AIF WW1, Adelaide, South Australia

22 Dec 1914: Involvement AIF WW1, Captain, SN Officer, 4th Field Ambulance,
Enlistment/Embarkation WW1

22 Dec 1914: Embarked AIF WW1, Captain, 4th Field Ambulance, HMAT Berrima, Melbourne

28 Apr 1916: Transferred AIF WW1, Captain, 50th Infantry Battalion



Biography - (Blood Sweat and Fears)

Blood Sweat and Fears: Medical Practitioners and Medical Students of South Australian who Served in World War 1,
C Verco, A Summers, T Swain & M Jelly. July 1914

JEFFRIES Lewis Wibmer

DSO OBE MB BS

1884 - 1971



Lewis Wibmer Jeffries was born on 9th August 1884 in Derby, England. He was the son of Rev William Jeffries and his wife Mercy, nee Wibmer. He was educated in schools in Toowoomba and Broken Hill before completing his secondary education at Prince Alfred College. He completed his medical degree at The University of Adelaide in 1907. He was awarded a Blue for lacrosse while at the university. After graduation he assisted Dr Arthur Powell in Kadina before obtaining post-graduate experience by travelling to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore where he worked with Harvey Cushing, the Children's Hospital in Great Ormond Street, and Breslau in Germany prior to a year in Kashmir in a Church Missionary Society Hospital. At Great Ormond Street the famous surgeon John Percy Lockhart-Mummery described him as *"tactful, courteous and considerate for his patients."* He returned to Australia in 1914 and, there, after the declaration of war, joined the 1st AIF.

Jeffries enlisted in the AIF on 14th October 1914. He was 30 years old, 5ft 10ins tall and 156lb. He was posted to 4 FdAmb and travelled to Egypt and with his unit to Gallipoli where he landed on the first day of the campaign on 25th April 1915. He was to remain there for the entire campaign. He was wounded on 9th May 1915, unconscious with an obvious entry and exit wound in his chest had been 'red-tagged' as dead. He had been saved by his cigarette case. Subsequently he was posted to 50 Bn and promoted to major. It was with this unit on 13th to 15th August 1916 in the region of Mouquet Farm, that he exhibited *'great devotion to duty when he left his dressing station and went to the front line at great risk to attend to wounded and to re-organize the stretcher bearers. When only a few bearers were left he took parties of men out himself and assisted to carry back our wounded after having dressed them under very heavy fire.'* The DSO was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations and gazetted on 14th November 1916. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches for his services in France and Belgium. He served as DADMS for

the 4th Australian Division from December 1916 to January 1918. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and, from January 1918 was DADMS for AIF Headquarters in London. He was issued with the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal with Oak Leaves. He was appointed OBE in 1919.

Jeffries married Shirley Frances Singleton on 20th December 1917 in St Georges, Bloomsbury. He returned to SA in 1920 and to general practice where he was in partnership Dean Dawson, Charles Turner and Charles Yeatman. He performed his own surgery and confined up to 200 women annually, many in their own homes. He was appointed Inspector General of Hospitals in SA in 1933, an appointment he held until 1947. He was chairman of the board of the Adelaide Hospital, a member of the Medical Board of SA and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Adelaide. Subsequently he returned to clinical practice performing relieving work in country SA as well as working as a medical officer with the Red Cross Transfusion Service until his death. Lewis Wibmer Jeffries died in Adelaide on 6th October 1971. A sister, Eleanor, a nurse with the AANC in WW1, was twice decorated with the Royal Red Cross and Mentioned in Despatches and a brother, Sir Shirley Jeffries was a solicitor, and politician. Jeffries had three sons all of whom served in different services in WW2. Dr John S Jeffries served with the RAAMC and, his son Dr Lewis Peter Jeffries joined the Australian Defence Force Reserve.

Sources:

National Archives
<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=7372302>
Personal history Jeffries family
Gurner C. M. 'Jeffries, Lewis Wibmer (1884-1971)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/jeffries-lewis-wibmer-6833/text11827>.

Biography - (Australian Dictionary of Biography)

Australian Dictionary of Biography

Lewis Wibmer Jeffries

by C. M. Gurner

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/jeffries-lewis-wibmer-6833>

Lewis Wibmer Jeffries (1884-1971), medical practitioner and soldier, was born on 9 August 1884 at Derby, England, son of William Jeffries, Wesleyan minister, and his wife Mercy, née Wibmer. After his family migrated to Australia he attended schools at Toowoomba, Queensland, and Broken Hill, New South Wales, completing his education at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide (1900-02), and the University of Adelaide (M.B., B.S., 1907). While at university he was awarded a blue for lacrosse and represented South Australia.

After graduation Jeffries assisted Dr Arthur Powell at Kadina, then worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, United States of America, with the great Harvey Cushing, 'doing faithful work, particularly in surgical pathology'. A period at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London, was followed by study at Breslau, Germany, then a year in Kashmir at a Church Missionary Society hospital, carrying out any and every form of surgery. In 1912 he resumed at Great Ormond Street until his return to Australia in 1914. At this time the famous surgeon, Lockhart Mummery, wrote of him 'I have been very much impressed by Mr Jeffries' ability ... He is tactful, courteous and considerate for his patients, and as a surgical colleague is all that can be desired'.

Jeffries enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force as a captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps on 2 October 1914, embarking with the 4th Field Ambulance. He was involved in operations in Egypt before and after Gallipoli, where he served from April to December 1915, and was slightly wounded on 9 May. In May 1916, in France, he was appointed medical officer to the 50th Battalion and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for tending the wounded and reorganizing stretcher-bearers in the front line at great personal risk. When only a few bearers were left he carried back wounded under heavy fire. He was promoted major in November, was transferred briefly to the 12th Field Ambulance and from December 1916 to January 1918 was deputy assistant director of medical services, 4th Australian Division. He was then appointed assistant director of medical services at A.I.F. Headquarters, London, where he was responsible for medical arrangements for transport and hospitalization of wounded. Promoted lieutenant-colonel in November 1918, he was twice mentioned in dispatches for his service in France and Belgium and in 1919 was appointed O.B.E. His A.I.F. appointment ended in July 1920.

On his return to South Australia Jeffries joined the Citizen Military Forces, filling several important service appointments. He was placed on the reserve of officers in 1939 and the retired list in 1944, but in 1951 returned to full-time duty as officer commanding a camp hospital during national service. In 1920-32 he was successively in partnership with Dean Dawson, Charles Turner and Charles Yeatman, outstanding Adelaide general practitioners, doing most of his own surgery and delivering up to 200 babies annually, most in homes. He was a senior vice-president of Legacy, active in the St John Ambulance Brigade, and a member of several Adelaide clubs. There is constant evidence throughout of a good doctor, a capable administrator, and a man loved by his patients and respected by his colleagues, medical and military.

In 1933 Jeffries was appointed inspector-general of hospitals in South Australia, a position held until 1947, which also entailed chairmanship of the Royal Adelaide Hospital Board and membership of the State Medical Board and of the faculty of medicine, University of Adelaide. This was probably the most difficult period of his life, divorcing him from direct patient care and including the Depression, wartime and early post-war years with their problems of shortages of doctors, nurses and hospital equipment. He returned to clinical practice, performing relieving work in country areas, including the Woomera and Maralinga Weapon Ranges and for the army, as well as acting as medical officer to the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service until his death.

The biographer remembers him as a big, slow-moving gentleman, with very kind eyes. He was officially a Methodist, but his family say he was an atheist. On 20 December 1917 in St George's Church, Bloomsbury, London, he had married Shirley Frances Singleton, born in South Africa. They had three sons who served in World War II in different services, the eldest, John Singleton Jeffries, being an outstanding army field medical officer.

Low Jeffries's youngest brother, Shirley Williams, was a South Australian attorney-general and minister for education and was knighted. The eldest of his three sisters, Elsie, was decorated for her Army nursing service in France. Survived by his sons, Jeffries died in the Royal Adelaide Hospital on 6 October 1971 and his ashes lie in Centennial Park cemetery.

Biography - (Encyclopaedia of Australian Science)

<http://www.eoas.info/biogs/P001091b.htm>

Jeffries, Lewis Wibmer (1884 - 1971)

Born

9 August 1884
Derby, England

Died

6 October 1971
Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

Occupation

Physician, Surgeon and Military doctor

Summary

Lewis Wibmer Jeffries was a leading Adelaide general practitioner and decorated war-time surgeon. Serving in the Australian Imperial Force from 1914 to 1920, Jeffries worked in France, Egypt, Gallipoli and London. From 1933-47 he was appointed Inspector General of hospitals in South Australia, which included chairmanship of the Royal Adelaide Hospital Board. Jeffries was acting medical officer for the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service until his death in 1971.

Details

Jeffries graduated from Medicine at the University of Adelaide in 1907. He spent the next 6- 7 years working at various hospitals around the world including Kadina, South Australia; Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, United States of America; Children's Hospital, London, United Kingdom; and the Church Missionary Society Hospital, Kashmir. When war broke out in 1914 Jeffries promptly joined the Australian Imperial Force where he served for 6 years. This culminated in Jeffries being appointed lieutenant-colonel and assistant Director of medical services Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London c1918-1920. Upon his return to Adelaide in 1920, Jeffries went back to general practice and held many prestigious positions, including Inspector General of hospitals in South Australia (1933-47). 1951 saw Jeffries return to the armed forces as camp hospital commander (1951-c1953). Jeffries once again returned to Adelaide where he died in 1971.

Events

1900 - 1902

Education - Studied at Prince Alfred College. Location: Adelaide, South Australia

1903 - 1907

Education - Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and Bachelor of Surgery (BS) completed at the University of Adelaide.
Location: Adelaide, South Australia

1914 - 1915

Career position - Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps

1914 - 1920

Career position - Military service with the Australian Imperial Force

1916

Award - Distinguished Service Order (DSO) received

December 1916 - January 1918

Career position - Major with the 12th Field Ambulance

20 December 1917

Life event - Married Shirley Frances Singleton. Location: St George's Church, Bloomsbury, London

1918? - 1920?

Career position - Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Director of Medical Services at the Australian Imperial Force Headquarters in London

1919

Award - Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

1920 - 1932

Career position - General Practitioner. Location: South Australia

1933 - 1947

Career position - Inspector General of Hospitals in South Australia and Chair of the Royal Adelaide Hospital Board.
Location: South Australia

1950? - 1971

Medical Officer for the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. Location: South Australia

1951 - 1953?

Career position - Commander at the army camp hospital. Location: Korea?

Archival resources

Australian War Memorial Research Centre

Lewis Wibmer Jeffries - Records; Australian War Memorial Research Centre.

Private hands (Jeffries, J.S.)

Lewis Wibmer Jeffries - Records, 1884 - 1971; Private hands (Jeffries, J.S.).

Published resources

Book Sections

Gurner, C. M., 'Jeffries, Lewis Wibmer (1884-1971), Medical Practitioner and Soldier', in Bede Nairn and Geoffrey Serle (eds), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 9, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1983, pp. 475-476. Also available at <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090467b.htm>.

Online Resources

'Jeffries, Lewis Wibmer (1884-1971)', *Trove*, National Library of Australia, 2009, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.party-1467737>.

McCarthy, G.J.

Created: 20 October 1993, Last modified: 4 February 2010

Additional Biographical Details

Schooling

Lewis completed his schooling at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide passing his Primary Examinations in 1900, Junior Examinations in 1901 and Senior Examinations in 1902.

University

Lewis commenced his medical studies at Adelaide University in 1903 and gained his MB BS in 1907.

1906 Faculty of Medicine



*1st row: N.Shierlaw, Catchlove, Miss M.George, Miss Delprat, Prof.Watson, Miss Delprat, Miss M.Moffat, R.A.Goode, St.John Poole, C.Yeatman, E.C.Black, S.L.Corry, E.J.R.Holder.
2nd row: J.Dyer, Thomas, J.J.O'Grady, D.M.Steele, Drew, E.Arnold, H.M.Jay, W.Ray, G.R.West, L.G.Muirhead, J.Leon, H.Powell, E.B.Jones, W.D.Rosengarten, N.E.Seppelt, W.R.Reynell, T.H.Donnelly, R.Trudinger, Everard.
3rd row: H.Elkan, C.D.Pitcher, F.E.McAree, E.H.Lewis, J.L.Jona, E.A.H.Russell, G.Harvey, W.H.Stevenson, C.E.Dolling, W.A.V.Drew, W.Jacobs, T.G.Fleming, M.Erichsen, R.J.Verco, L.O.Betts, L.W.Jeffries.
4th row: E.J.McGlashon, H.Fry, P.T.S.Cherry, R.Plummer, H.W.D.Stoddart, D.R.W.Cowan, W.M.Sinclair, D.Parkhouse.*

University Sport

Athletics

Lewis competed in the 1905 Adelaide University Sports winning the 220 yards flat race. He also competed in the 1907 Sports.

Lawn Tennis

In 1906 Lewis competed in the Adelaide University Lawn Tennis tournament.

Football

Lewis was listed as an emergency for a football match in the Adelaide And Suburban Competition in 1906.

Lacrosse

Lewis first appears in the papers playing Lacrosse for Adelaide University part way through the 1906 season. He also played for the PAC Old Scholars in a match against St Peters in August 1906. Lewis played Lacrosse for the University from 1906-1908 and represented Adelaide University in Inter Varsity matches against Melbourne in 1907 and 1908. He was awarded a Blue for Lacrosse in 1908.

Inter Varsity Lacrosse 1907



Back: G.A.Harvey, C.E.Dolling, L.W.Jeffries, D.R.W.Cowan, R.J.Rudall (mngr), D.M.Steele, H.K.Fry, O.M.Moulden, E.C.Black.

Middle: C.Yeatman, L.O.Betts (vice capt), R.A.Goode (capt), S.J.K.McClennan, G.C.Campbell, E.A.H.Russell (sec).

Front: R.J.Verco, M.Ericksen.

Held in Melbourne, won by Adelaide 11-2

Inter Varsity Lacrosse 1908



Back: N.C.Shierlaw, R.J.Verco, D.R.W.Cowan, H.K.Fry, A.L.Pinch.

Middle: G.C.Campbell, L.O.Betts (vice capt), R.A.Goode (capt), E.A.H.Russell (sec), D.M.Steele.

Front: L.W.Jeffries, J.Larner (ref), M.Erichsen.


Held in Adelaide, won by Adelaide 8-1

Lewis' WWI story is well documented in the biographies above.

1917 – Marriage Registration

Newspaper Articles


DR. JEFFRIES.
Capt. Dr. Jeffries is a son of the Rev. W. Jeffries, of Lefevre terrace North Adelaide, and is 31 years of age. He was a student at Prince Alfred College, and later at the Adelaide University, where he took his degree of medicine. After spending a year at the Adelaide Hospital and 18 months with Dr. Powell, of Kadina, he went abroad to pursue his studies. He took a post-graduate course at Baltimore, in the United States, and then went to



CAPT. DR. JEFFRIES.

Breslau, in Germany. Subsequently he proceeded to India to assist at a medical mission conducted in North India by his cousins, Drs. Neve. Returning to England, he secured the position of Superintendent of the Queen's Hospital for Children at Hackney, London, but early last year decided to come to South Australia to take up a practice. He had barely settled down in his new sphere when war broke out, and he volunteered for service in the 4th Field Ambulance, and was accepted.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN L. W. JEFFRIES.
 Surgeon-Captain L. W. Jeffries, who is reported wounded at the Dardanelles, is 30 years of age, and is a son of the Rev. W. Jeffries, of Lefevre-terrace, North Adelaide. He was a student at Prince Alfred College, and later at the Adelaide University, where he took his medical de-



Captain L. W. Jeffries.

gree. After a year spent at the Adelaide Hospital and 18 months with Dr. Powell, of Kadina, he went abroad to further his studies. He took a post-graduate course at Baltimore, in the United States, and then went to Breslau, Germany. He proceeded to India to assist at a medical mission in North India. On his return to England he secured the position of superintendent of the Queen's Hospital for children at Hackney, London, but early last year he decided to return to South Australia and practise his profession here. At the commencement of war he volunteered for service and was accepted, as a member of the 4th Field Ambulance.

NEW CHIEF OF HOSPITALS DEPARTMENT

**Dr. L. W. Jeffries Succeeds
Dr. B. H. Morris**

**MEDICAL CIRCLES WARMLY
SUPPORT APPOINTMENT**

Distinguished War Record



Dr. L. W. Jeffries

Dr. L. W. Jeffries of Clarence Park, who graduated at the Adelaide University, has been appointed to succeed Dr. B. H. Morris as Inspector-General of Hospitals. This was announced by the Chief Secretary (Sir George Ritchie) following a meeting of Executive Council yesterday.

At the end of February Dr. Morris will begin seven months' long leave preparatory to retiring from the Public Service through having reached the age limit, and Dr. Jeffries will then begin his new duties.

Dr. Jeffries, who is 51, was chosen from among 26 applicants from Australia and New Zealand.

Warm support for the appointment was expressed yesterday by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University (Dr. C. T. C. de Crespigny) and Sir Henry Newland. Dr. Jeffries' application for the position was supported by the Principal of St. Mark's College (Dr. A. Grenfell Price), Mr. R. B. Jacob (former president of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League), and by Mr. Rudall, M.P., who served with Dr. Jeffries during the war.

Important Post

Sir George Ritchie said that he regarded the appointment as one of the most important made by the Government in recent years, and it was gratifying to the Government that it had been able to confer the position upon a native of South Australia, and one who had been educated and trained in South Australian institutions. It was a further cause for gratification that Dr. Jeffries was a returned soldier with a record of distinguished war service. Dr. Jeffries was most highly regarded in medical circles and was also appreciated for his charming personal qualities.

Dr. Jeffries is a son of the late Rev. W. Jeffries and a brother of the Attorney-General (Mr. S. W. Jeffries). He was educated at Prince Alfred College and graduated in medicine and surgery at the Adelaide University in December, 1907. He is a registered medical practitioner in South Australia and also in Great Britain. After graduating at the Adelaide University, he was for some time house surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital, and then became assistant to Dr. A. Powell in private practice.

He visited America and Europe and did post-graduate work in pathology and surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A., and also visited all important hospitals in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Cleveland and Rochester. This was followed by post-graduate work in anatomy, pathology and anthropology at the Breslau University in Germany.

Held Many Positions

Among the important appointments held by Dr. Jeffries while abroad, said Sir George Ritchie, were those of surgeon to the Church Missionary Society Hospital, Kashmir, India; casualty surgeon to Queen's Hospital for Children, London; house physician to Queen's Hospital for Children, London; resident medical officer to Queen's Hospital for Children, London; and, for a short period, medical officer, West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London. Dr. Jeffries also studied at University College Hospital and Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London.

"Dr. Jeffries was for some time demonstrator of anatomy at the Adelaide University," said Sir George Ritchie. "He was also reporter to the Australian Medical Journal for the council of the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association. He is a member of the council of the District Trained Nursing Society, has acted as surgeon to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and has been associated in an honorary capacity with the Boys' Legacy Club."

Valuable War Service

On the outbreak of war, Dr. Jeffries was appointed a captain of the Australian Military Force (provisional) in August, 1914. He was appointed Medical Officer, Defended Ports, in the same year. He became captain in the Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Forces, in October, 1914, and was allotted to the 4th Field Ambulance. Subsequently he was transferred to the 50th Battalion. He was appointed to the command of the 12th Field Ambulance in December, 1916, and later became Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services, 4th Division, Australian Imperial Forces. In January, 1918, he was appointed Assistant Director of Medical Services, Administrative Headquarters. While acting as captain to the Bearer Division on Gallipoli, he was wounded in May, 1915, and was evacuated to Egypt.

He was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order while acting as Regimental Medical Officer, 50th Battalion, at Moquet Farm, in August, 1916. As assistant director of medical services, he was responsible for all medical arrangements for transport and hospital ships, and was for six months in sole charge of the medical services administered at headquarters until demobilisation was complete.

He was awarded the order of the British Empire (Military Division) in June, 1919.

Help To Medical School

Dr. de Crespigny said that he believed the appointment of Dr. Jeffries would be very satisfactory to members of the medical school of the University.

"Although I am disappointed that the Government has not separated the position of Inspector-General of Hospitals from that of the chairman of the board of management of the Adelaide Hospital, I believe that Dr. Jeffries is highly suited to perform the arduous duties which inevitably must be his," said Dr. de Crespigny. "It is gratifying that Dr. Jeffries has had wide experience in so many institutions of medical education. This, undoubtedly, will make him sympathetic with the work of the clinical activities of the medical school, in so far as it is linked with the Adelaide Hospital. Besides his wide post-graduate studies, the fact that he is one of our own graduates will enable him to understand more readily the various problems special to our medical school."

"Regarding his capacity for administration, all medical officers on active service regarded Colonel Jeffries very highly as an organiser."

"Modern, Elastic Mind"

"There is no doubt of Dr. Jeffries' capacity as an organiser because General G. W. Barber, late D.M.S. of the Australian Medical Forces, personally told me of it," said Sir Henry Newland.

"When General Barber resigned his position about a year ago, he was succeeded by Colonel R. M. Downes. There is little doubt that had General

Downes not been an applicant the appointment would have gone to Dr. Jeffries.

"It is very gratifying that the ability of an Adelaide graduate should have been recognised by the Government, and I consider Dr. Jeffries to be eminently suited to the position."

"We are living in a rapidly changing world so far as public health administration and policy are concerned and I certainly think that Dr. Jeffries will bring to the position a modern, elastic mind, capable of recognising the directions in which events are marching."

1936

Land Exchange Between Botanic Garden and Hospital



A PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE TO TRANSFER portion of the Adelaide Hospital grounds to the Botanic Garden Board in exchange for a strip of land belonging to the board, at the rear of the hospital. At the official inspection of the grounds today (left to right)—the Lay Superintendent of the Hospital (Mr. Botting), Mr. E. R. Dawes, a member of the Hospital Board, the Under-Secretary (Mr. A. L. Read), the chairman of the Botanic Garden Board (Dr. E. Angas Johnson), the Inspector-General of Hospitals (Dr. L. W. Jeffries), the Chief Secretary (Sir George Ritchie), the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Mr. McIntosh), the Director of the Botanic Garden (Mr. Greaves), the Medical Superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital (Dr. Sleeman), and the Secretary to the Inspector-General of Hospitals (Mr. Spiller).

1936 - Dr L.W. Jeffries – Fifth from Left

1939



ANZAC DAY PROCESSION.—Top—Medical men marching in the Anzac Day procession yesterday. From left: Drs. T. G. Wilson, E. A. H. Russell, J. Roland Beard, Roy Kenihan, H. Kenneth Fry, Sir Henry Newland, and L. W. Jeffries. BELOW: Members of the Fleet Coast Association marching.

Dr L.W. Jeffries – Front Row – Far Right

1940



TATIARA HOSPITAL. New staff quarters, which cost £3,000, were recently added to the Soldiers' Memorial Hospital at Bordertown. The official group. Back row (from left): Messrs. L. H. Densley (Chairman District Council), A. F. Baker (Secretary of Hospital), R. F. Fairbrother, S. R. B. Makin, A. H. C. Guy, J. A. Creaser (Board Members). Front row: Chief Secretary and Minister for Health (Mr. A. McEwin), Dr. W. H. Collins (Medical Officer), Matron Bailey, Dr. L. W. Jeffries (Inspector-General of Hospitals), D. R. Milne (Chairman Hospital Board), P. T. Rabene, A. G. Butler (Board Members), W. J. White (Architect), I. Potter, representing the builders.

Dr L.W. Jeffries – Front Row – Fourth from Left

1948

Control of Infectious Diseases Hospital Handed Over



CONTROL OF NORTHFIELD Infectious Diseases Hospital was handed over by the hospital board to the Government and Royal Adelaide Hospital board today. From left—Dr. L. W. Jeffries (chairman, Royal Adelaide board), Mr. G. E. Scantelbury (secretary), Cr. H. Gill Williams (who handed hospital over), Cr. C. J. Glover, Chief Secretary (Mr. McEwin), Mr. E. R. Dawes, Dr. H. H. E Russell, Sir Henry Barwell, and Deputy Matron D. Guster.

1948 - Dr L.W. Jeffries – Front Row – Far Left

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