



Bruce Edge died 1980

Poisons Information Centre

Bruce Edge was a Charge Nurse in the Receiving Room for many years, contributing to the pioneering days of the modern Receiving Room in an Accident & Emergency Unit.

He noticed an annual increase in the number of patients attending suffering from unspecified poisons, many of which were found in the home and garden. He decided to try to find out and list the ingredients of these household items so as to have an idea of the things they were treating.

After making a list of items which were likely to be found and ingested by a child, he wrote to the manufacturers and asked them to name the poisonous ingredients in their products. After a visit to a large retail chemist's warehouse and following many hours of noting ingredients he had a list of 1500 items.

With the agreement of the Regional Hospital Board and The Board of Governors, a plan to organise a proper information unit was put in place.

The items, plus many more which were listed in poisons books (around 4000 in total) were cross referenced and copied onto index cards. This enabled anyone dealing with a query to provide accurate information. A library of reference books was built up and information added as time went along.

This was the first Poisons Information Centre in the country and was launched in August 1961. It remained independent of the Government centres which followed, until 1990s when it amalgamated with Newcastle.

In 1962 Mr Edge was appointed Superintendent of the new Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) at the LGI. This new department had been researched by Sister Doreen (Daisy) Ayris, Theatre Superintendent for many years.

Mr. Edge was remembered with great affection as the producer of many memorable Christmas Pantomimes!

He was awarded the MBE in 1969 and retired in 1976.

