

theatre, students room, Microscope room, 3 store rooms and x-ray room.	52 beds
b) Ward for police patients	8 beds
c) Cholera ward for Cholera Patients	10 beds
d) Cottage with single beds	9 beds
e) Maternity & labour room	4 beds
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	83 beds
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Two of these cottages can still be seen just above the physiology block which are now lady's cloak room and the canteen. During heavy rains in 1914 a part of the hospital building came down and the other part also was thought to be dangerously living. the Hospital was shifted to the Medical School building with the consent of the Maharani and the School was shifted to a rented building. The Government sanctioned Rs. 1,27,000/- in the same year for the construction of a new hospital; this amount was later enhanced to Rs. 4,97,910/- during 1915. At this time Mr. Cardew member of Governor's Council who visited Visakhapatnam suggested that the new hospital should be built on "the sandy hill south of the Collector's office which will provide ample area for a future expansion". This farsightedness of Mr. Cardew is responsible for the present area. Construction of the Hospital was delayed due to the First World War.

The Construction of the new hospital was taken up in 1918 and was completed by 1923 with a bed strength of 192. The buildings completed were as follows (in a sprawling 36 acre area)

1. Administrative block
2. Men's Surgical wards
(Present S1, S2, S3 & S4)
3. Men's Medical wards
(Present Urology, Surgical, Plastic Surgery & Burns Ward)
4. Womens ward
 - a) Surgical (Present S3 ward)
 - b) Medical (Present M3 ward-cancer ward)

5. Operation Theatre
(Present Radiology Department)
6. Out patient block (present records room)
7. Septic ward (present S5 ward)
8. X-ray and dark room
9. Kitchen
10. Dispensary
(Present boy Student's Cloak room)

This Hospital was declared open on 19th July, 1923, indeed a red letter day in the annals of the Hospital history, by Dewan Bahadur Sri Rajah Panuganti Rama Rayanagar of Panagal (Near Kalahasti of Chittoor district), Hon'ble Chief Minister of the Madras province. The Hospital was called "King George Hospital" in honour of the reigning British Monarch.

A separate maternity block with 140 beds was ready by March, 1928 and was called "Wilson maternity ward" Commemorating Surgeon General, Major General M. Wilson. C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S., By July 1932 a separate block for ENT and Ophthalmology patients with an in-patient bed strength of 80 and facilities to run the out patient was constructed. About this time M/s. B. Barooh of Assam generously donated Rs. 35,000/- towards electrical installation in the hospital. Octogenarian Dr. R. Surya Prasada Rao an alumnus of the Institution recalls with pride that the only two institutions having electricity facility those day were the Visakhapatnam Port and King George Hospital. A tablet acknowledging the donation of M/s. Barooh is to be found near the present CSSD. Looking at the crowded out patient block of those days the gifted Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University Dr. C.R. Reddy, known for his ready wit and sarcasm is said to have made the following terse & Cryptic remark "this is not an out-patient department, this is a get out Department, build a new one". The sensitive authorities took up the construction of a separate block which was declared open in 1940 by H.E. Sir Arthur Hope G.C.I.E.M.C. and is called "Ebden block" named after the redoubtable Surgeon and Principal, Major J.A.W. Ebden. This OP block took care of the increasing number of the out-patients attending Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedics, Tuberculosis, Dermato-Venereology, Dental and Casualty Departments. In 1941 a separate Childrens ward with 54 beds was built which in course of time

YESTERYEARS

- Dr. P. Panduranga Rao
Professor and Head of the
Department of Medicine.

In July 1953 as a young man I landed on the Waltair platform. My purpose was to join as a medical student in the Andhra Medical College. In those days Waltair railway station was a small tiled structure with a single platform and trains used to proceed further to Visakhapatnam Town station which is now dismantled. Outside the station the mode of transport was horse drawn Jatakas and cycle rickshaws. Autos have not yet arrived. Occasionally we used to see Bullock drawn box carriages with doors. Trains were infrequent and no reservation of seats was available. There were no long distance buses. With difficulty I got into Howrah Mail at Nidadavole at 7 a.m. There was standing room only till I got down at Waltair at 4 p.m. At the Andhra Medical College it was period of hectic activity. Andhra state was newly formed from the Madras presidency and many eminent professors from Madras were still there. The famous Dr. T.K. Raman has already left and the Principal was Prof. Anantachari. His office was located in the ground floor of present physiology block. College functions were held in the Bhaskara Menon's School of pathology (where Regional laboratory is now located). The first year student was introduced to the awful majesty of Andhra Medical College by Dr. P. Brahmayya Sastry - Prof. of Physiology, Dr. V. Ramachandra Rao, Prof. Of Anatomy and Sri C. Anna Rao Lecturer in Chemistry. The last mentioned was a particularly strict disciplinarian who never allowed any deviation on the part of the students. After joining the medical college we were admitted to the AMC Men's Hostel which was newly constructed building. For me who spent my student days studying under kerosene lamps, staying

in tiled houses taking bath drawing well water the hostel was like a dream house. There used to be a big dining hall with vegetarian mess on one side and non-vegetarian mess on other side with free exchange of items. The first year student was received affectionately by the seniors. The unfortunate practice of ragging has not set in at that time. A few days after joining the hostel I had high fever one evening. On coming to know of this, many seniors rushed to my room. One senior Mr. Niranjana Reddy who was Bus Secretary drove the hostel bus as the driver was away. I was taken to casualty and safely deposited in student sick room where lot of attention was paid to me. During those days a famous musical movie 'Devadas' celebrated its 100th day run at the Lakshmi Talkies. We invited the immortal singer "Ghantasala" to our hostel. He promptly agreed and gave a thrilling performance in the dining hall of Men's Hostel.

Visakhapatnam was a small place and has undergone many changes since then. There used to be a beach near the St. Aloysius High School upto Minerva Talkies. One of our inexpensive recreations in the evenings was to walk down the long main road till we came to old post office. Occasionally we used to come across Mr. Dasaradharam a tall lean and jovial figure who used to come in the opposite direction. He was in later years to make a mark for himself and Andhra Medical College in many countries. The area which is now occupied by Jagadamba theatre was a desolate pit with a broken compound wall. We used to cross a stream to reach the Saraswathi Talkies.

Subhadra Devi and her team. She had a special affection for me and used to enquire about me. Her greatness was that almost every student felt like myself. We were asked to stay in the hospital for one month for "Internship" to conduct deliveries and follow cases. I had to give two tea parties but no dinners during that period. The understanding was we have to give a tea party if twins are born and a dinner if triplets are born.

Among the assistant professors we had Dr. S. Balaparameswara Rao who was an ace sportsman and a pioneer in many fields. Dr. S. Sreenivasulu Reddy was a good teacher with ready wit. Dr. P. Siva Reddi in later years completely revolutionised ophthalmic care.

In the department of Medicine we had several illustrious professors like Dr. G.V.S. Murthy who was also Principal. He was a strict but warm hearted person. Among other things he made lot of improvements to the play ground. Dr. K. Kodandaramaiah was a superb clinician who with a single word or gesture could put at ease an illiterate farmer or a highly educated person. There was Dr. V.S. Raghunathan a lively and highly articulate person. Dr. Pinakapani was a respected scholar and K. Suryanarayana endeared himself to one and all. Notable among the assistant professors of those times were Dr. K. Krishna Murthy, Dr. T. Srinivasan and Dr. P. Sivaramakrishna Rao. All of them had great personal charm and we used to consider them divinely gifted. Several years later when I got promoted as physician, K.G. Hospital I was so much excited and wondered whether it could be true. It was a great elevation for a person who only a few years earlier was wandering aimlessly as a young lad in Bhimavaram. Thinking of our teachers we had also several amusing incidents. One newly appointed tutor in Physiology told us something about Hypertension which was totally at variance with what is mentioned in books. One of my class mates was quick

to point out his. He (the tutor) cleverly told us that he wanted to explain this in detail in next class. After the class was over he called some of us aside and told us "Don't believe that Sivaraman. His knowledge is very superficial".

Quite a good number of my class mates had their careers cut short at different stages due to premature demise much to our grief and bitter disappointment of their families. Unforgettable memories will remain forever. We lost Y. Ramachandra Rao who was an ace ring tennis player, P. Atchuta Rao with his lively Itchapuram accents, R. Ranga Rao who was general secretary of students union, Sivadayal the famous singer, Ramalinga Chetti who was a passionate photographer, B. Krishna Murthy the great actor "Girisam". Mohammed Ali was close to me. S.V. Ramana Rao (Tamati) died in U.S.A. Among the women students were Mandakini devi, Kamala and others. One can only pray that their souls may rest in peace.

I tried to give a picture of what it was like to be a medical student in the fifties. Mean while they have put up and torn off 40 calendars and we are now in 1994. Several of my class mates have retired and the remaining few of us will retire shortly. Andhra Medical College which showered her gifts on us like the mighty river Godavari which flows gracefully expecting nothing in return. We never lost a single working day due to strike or agitations. No examination was postponed at any time. One Hostel day was postponed due to the sad demise of the president of India Dr. Zakir Hussain. We were forced to eat all the sweets lest they may get spoiled. It was a great experience to be a medical student. I still remember Sri Anna Rao looking sternly through the top of his glasses and saying "of all the batches of medical students I have seen your batch is full of Bald headed idiots". So recorded Mr. Abdul Nabi one of our class mates who was reputed to have noted every single word uttered by the teachers in those days.
