

BEYOND THE GRAVES

Volume 11, Number 2, April 2016

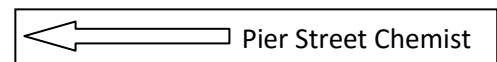
PHARMACOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

Behind the White Coat



Your chemist is more than a Shopkeeper. College training, professional obligation, and State requirements combine with business experience to ensure the highest standard of service by the qualified chemist.

These words appear as part of a 1934 advert in the Parish Magazine, for Nicholson's Dispensing Chemist at Number 4, The Esplanade, formerly known as 13 Pier Street.



Early Pharmacists

Mr. Nicholson was one of a long line of Chemists and Druggists with premises in Pier Street dating back to the mid nineteenth century. Adverts from the early and mid Victorian period show there were also pharmacological businesses in Union Street, High Street, Cross Street and George Street.

In 1859, Mr. Woodward, chemist George Street and Mr. Wayland, Arcade, and all respected druggists, provided 'Sultana Cream,' a hair restoration preparation. Mr. Corfe, a High Street pharmacist, advertised his homeopathic remedies in 1885. Bevis of Cross Street, Smith of Union Street and Smith of High Street are all named as providers of Eucalyptus Oil in an advert from 1893.

HENRY CORFE,
DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST,
AND HOMŒOPATHIC CHEMIST,
—105 HIGH STREET, RYDE.—
PHYSICIAN'S and Family Prescriptions
accurately prepared with Drugs and Chem-
icals of the purest quality.

The Isle of Wight Observer in 1895 informed readers that *'Spring is the time of year when Black Beetles invade us in force. To cope with them successfully use Flower's Beetle Poison, which they like and greedily devour. In bottles, price 1s. of Flower, Chemist, Pier Street, Ryde.'*

"PLATYPUS"
EUCALYPTUS OIL
(Tasmanian Eucalyptus Globulus Oil)
"PLATYPUS BRAND"
PREVENTS AND CURES
Influenza, Coughs, Colds,
Bronchitis, Fevers,
Asthma, Headache,
Neuralgia, Rheumatism.
In Bottles only, bearing Trade Mark, at 1s., 2s. 6d.
Tasmanian Eucalyptus Oil Co. 138, Leadenhall St. E.C.
TO BE OBTAINED FROM
WALTER BEVIS, 11, Cross Street.
TENISON SMITH, Top of Union Street.
WILLIAM SMITH, 21, High Street.

James Littlefield was a very early chemist and druggist, recorded in census and directories from 1841, with business first in Cross-street and later Pier-street. His wife Catherine, was a Wavell before her marriage, daughter of a chemist in Union-street. Their son, James Wavell Littlefield, was recorded in the 1851 census as a Chemist's Assistant but later had his own business in Ventnor. James Littlefield Senior was president of the Board of Ryde Commissioners in 1855-56. He was reported for attempting to gag the press about town documents in 1857. He died in 1877. (details from Isle of Wight Observer reports and obituary)

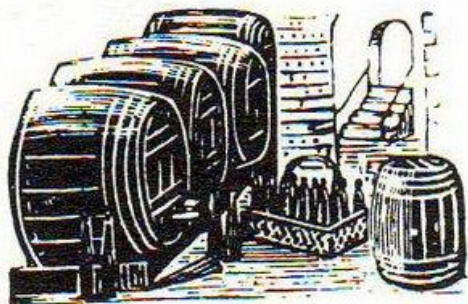
Not Only a Chemist but Also ... Mr William Smith, one of the suppliers of Eucalyptus Oil, had his business at 21, High Street for many years. The 1901 census records him as a Chemist and Dentist and his eldest son, William T. Smith, is a Chemist Assistant. Mr. William Smith Senior died in 1916 and his obituary describes him as formerly a well known Chemist and Dentist who during recent years carried out his dentistry business in Nelson Street.



GOULD
CHEMIST AND CHIROPODIST,
(from the London Homœopathic Hospital)
No. 132, HIGH STREET RYDE, I.W.
Veterinary Advice and Medicines.

An advert in 1875 describes Mr Gould of High Street as a Chemist and Chiropodist, also offering veterinary advice.

Once a Chemist not always a Chemist ... In White's Directory of 1859, Mr John Wavell is recorded as being a chemist at the top of Union-street, Ryde. (his daughter Catherine, was mentioned previously in connection with Littlefield's Pharmacy) The 1871 census gives his address as 53 Union-street (Wine Stores, Yelf's Hotel) and by 1878 White's Directory records John Wavell as victualler, Yelf's family and commercial Hotel, 54 Union-street. The 1881 census finds John Wavell at Wavell's Hotel, Union-street and his occupation is Hotel-keeper. When Mr. Wavell died in 1888 his obituary described him as 'an old inhabitant of Ryde...For many years he had a chemist's business at the top of Union-street, and afterwards Yelf's Hotel, which he subsequently gave up to the present proprietor.'



When is a Chemist not a Chemist?... Many people today have memories of Mr. William Sutton who had the Chemist's in Somerset Road. He was a stout man who always wore his white coat and ran the small overcrowded shop assisted by his wife. An advert from a 1934 Parish Magazine contains the following words:

FIVE GOOD REASONS Why you can always 'Depend' upon me.

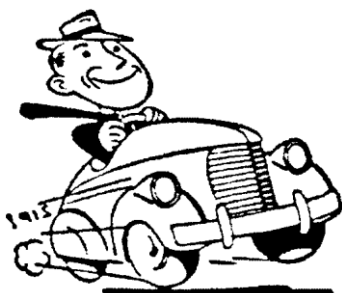
- 1st. - My service is modern.
- 2nd. - Cleanliness is my motto.
- 3rd. - Civility and Courteous attention given to every customer.
- 4th. - Dispensing of Medicine is my profession, and accuracy is assured.
- 5th. - Personal Supervision is given to everything pertaining to the business.

I try to stock Everything that belongs to a well-equipped Pharmacy. When closed apply for urgent orders at High Park Tavern, Marlborough Road.



Such a man was destined to become Mayor of Ryde. The local press recorded his many and varied duties.

May 9th 1963: The Mayor of Ryde, Ald. William SUTTON, officially unveiled two Hillman Imps at Wight Motors (Ryde) Ltd., High-street, Ryde on Thursday. The Imp, price £508 including purchase tax for the standard model, or £532 including purchase tax for the deluxe version.

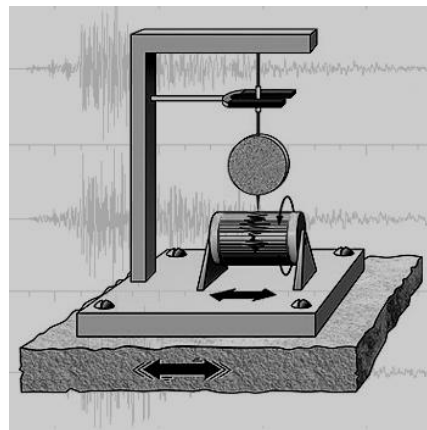


In 1965 the press reported on the end of the Elmfield Pharmacy.

Dec 2nd 1965: Ryde Borough Licensing Sessions on Thursday granted the transfer of the licence of the Pharmacy, Somerset Road, Elmfield, from a former Mayor, Ald. William SUTTON, who had retired, to Mr. G. A. H. COLE, of Cosham, who intends to sell only medicated wines.

Student of Science

These words are engraved on Mr. Evelyn William Pollard's headstone. His father, Henry Hides Pollard, founded a pharmacy business in the High Street in the 1870s and was an Alderman and J.P., member of the County Education Committee and the Ryde School Board; also divisional secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society for 35 years. He had several children who gained educational distinctions. Evelyn William attended Portsmouth Grammar School, Birkbeck College and the Pharmaceutical Society College, London. He entered his father's business in 1893 and took it over in 1912. Always interested in science, he was an evening class tutor for 10 years, and in 1905 gave the first lecture in the Island on wireless telegraphy. Botany and seismology (study of earthquakes) were his chief interests. He was a member of the I.W. Natural History and Archaeological Society. Inspired by the pioneer work of Professor John Milne, of Shide, Evelyn William began seismology experiments in the grounds of his home at the Quarry, Binstead. In later life Evelyn William placed on loan to Carisbrooke Castle Museum, as a memorial to Professor Milne, a number of exhibits, including a model of the professor's earliest seismograph. His own seismograph he presented to Newport Secondary Grammar School.



Evelyn William Pollard's headstone also says of him: "who lived for 70 years in his beloved Isle, 1877-1947." He retired from retail pharmacy in 1947 and the company Pollard and Ramage Ltd. took over the business. He then went to live in Dorking until his death in 1961 at the age of 84.

(Details on H. H. Pollard - Who's Who 1913 Isle of Wight; on E. W. Pollard - Obituary Isle of Wight Times 26 October 1961; picture of seismograph - wikimedia)

Tenison Smith Family Pharmacy Business



White's Directory of 1878 records Tenison Smith as a family and dispensing chemist, top of Union-street and in 1898 at 3 St. Thomas' Square. *(see picture left)* His obituary in 1912 states that he 'came from Cambridge 30 years ago and opened in business as a chemist which he continued until the time of his death.' The 1901 census records his wife and several children, the eldest, Tenison N. Smith is a Chemist's Assistant. There are two boarders, also Chemist's Assistants. Sadly, one son, Ralph, was killed at the Somme, 1916, in the First

World War. Tragically, the eldest son, Tenison Norman, who took over the business from his father, died suddenly of heart failure in 1919. The business was then sold. *(details from Isle of Wight Observer Obituaries)*

The Weather Men

Mr. Richard Taylor for many years carried on the business of a chemist, opposite the pier and recorded the weather from about 1860 until 1876, as listed in his returns to the British Rainfall Association. Thomas Flower took over the business and the weather returns from 1879. George Nicholson, initially assistant chemist to Mr. Flower, was next to take over the Pier-street business and the weather records. (see right for Isle of Wight Observer record 1912) Mr. Nicholson took a prominent part in Island Pharmaceutical and photographic spheres, and was president of the I.W. branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, and a founder member and for many years hon. secretary of the I.W. branch of the Photographic Dealers' Association. He was also chairman of the I.W. Pharmaceutical War Committee. He died in 1944. (details from Isle of Wight Times & Observer Obituaries)

THE WEATHER.—The following meteorological observations are taken close to and about 15ft. above the level of the sea at Ryde. Time, 9 a.m.

Date Feb.	Baro meter to sea level	Thermometer in Shade.			Rain- fall.	Humi- dity of the air
		Max	9 a.m.	Min.		
23	29.934	53	52	50	.153	91
24	29.935	52	48	46	.061	92
25	29.980	40	40	40	.003	93
26	30.021	50	46	42	.076	86
27	30.146	50	50	45	.007	86
28	30.184	53	52	49	.122	87
29	29.782	53	49	48		93

NICHOLSON, Chemist,

Pier Street, Ryde, I. W.

Rainfall for February 2.558 inches being .115 inch above the average. Total rainfall for the two months of January and February, 6.79 inches being 1.97 inches above the period average.

What do Pharmacists do in their Spare Time? ... 'Mr. Nicholson was a foundation member of the Ryde Rotary Club, and had ever been an enthusiastic and valued Rotarian. He had a deep love of the countryside, was a splendid shot and a keen fisherman. A true sportsman, he was held in the highest esteem and respect.' (Obituary)

The Dispensing of Physicians' Prescriptions has first place in

The GEORGE STREET PHARMACY

The Standardized fine Pharmaceutical Preparations, etc., are obtained from houses of the highest repute only; and their appropriate disposition is secured by the personal experience and supervision of the Principal.

SERA, VACCINES, OXYGEN AND RARE MEDICAMENTS KEPT IN STOCK.
Orders by Post or Telephone promptly executed. Tel.: Ryde 295.

P. L. BLAKELY, M.P.S., Pharmacist and Dispensing Chemist
64 GEORGE STREET, RYDE, I. of W.

Mr. Percy Lewis Blakely came to the Island in 1906, when he purchased the George-Street pharmacy and built up one of the largest dispensing businesses in the Island. He retired in 1938. He was keenly interested in chess, a game he played



competently, representing the Island, and in postal games. He founded the I.W. Chess Club in 1923 and was honorary secretary up to the outbreak of war. In 1934 he was appointed a prison visitor by the Home Office and almost every week for a period of 13 years made the journey to Parkhurst Prison, where he was instrumental in organising chess matches. (advert from Ryde & Seaview Guide 1935; details from Obituary Isle of Wight County Press 1958)

William Arthur Savill was a retired chemist, who lived at Sea Villa, Ryde Esplanade. He had been a resident of the borough since 1928 and although retired had acted as locum during the holiday period to several Island chemists. He was a prominent member of the I.W. Chess Club. (Obituary Isle of Wight Times 1945)

Mr. George Wallis, former deputy mayor and local auctioneer, was originally apprenticed to Pollard's pharmacy and then conducted his own business in Eastleigh for 40 years. He retired to Ryde in 1938. He was well versed in scientific research, a member of the Microscopical Society, student of natural history, local antiquities and history and a member of the Hampshire Chess Club for a great many years. (Obituary Isle of Wight County Press 1947)

Mr. Thomas Ernest Gibson, was employed by Messrs. Boots the chemists, then moved to Messrs. Pollard and Ramage, of High-street and later became the Ryde manager of Messrs. Graham Tatford and Co. Ltd., the wholesale druggists. Mr. Gibson was interested in sport, and closely connected with the Ryde Amateur Boxing Club. He was an official judge for the Southern Counties A.B.A. Mr. Gibson was with the Home Guard in Ryde during the Second World War. (Obituary Isle of Wight Times 1963)

