



The Birth of Twins: An Historical Perspective

Edna E Aitken, a Maternity Nurse in-training in 1935 at Whangarei Hospital, recorded the course of ZK's labour, birth and postnatal period with her twins. Edna's Obstetrical Case Book (H-M.T.15)¹ was the record of her work in the hospital during 1935.



Case ii Multipara Admitted in labour	4.20am	30.6.35
History of pains commencing	8pm	29.6.35
Os about ¾ dilated at	5.20am	30.6.35
Nembutal grs iii given 5.20am. Chloral Hydrate grs xxx given	5.35am	30.6.35
Parturition (Boy), normal delivery, vertex presentation	10.50am	30.6.35
Parturition (Girl), normal delivery, breech presentation, both feet presenting first.	11.5am	30.6.35
Perineum intact		
Placenta (double) expressed intact in 20 mins.	11.25am	30.6.35
A fair amount of oozing. Ergot Aceptic 1cc given	11.30am	30.6.35
Pad and tight binder applied. Ergot Ext 3ii given	11.35am	30.6.35
Some slight oozing after return to ward. Fundus massaged, clots expressed.		
Condition satisfactory.		
Involution normal, Lochia normal, Breasts normal, Supply increasing.		
Condition satisfactory on discharge on 14th day.		
Babies: Routine eye treatment given after birth. Cords separated 5th and 6th days. Breast fed from 3rd day. QQH feedings. Complemented with Karilac solution 2½ % and breast milk.		
Both babies discharged in a thriving condition on 14th day.		

Reference

1. Obstetrical Case Book, 14 June 1935 - 13 December 1935. Page 39. 2009/2, Liz Brunton. Held at Wise Woman Archives Trust, Hamilton.



Wise Woman Archives Trust Inc

Wise Woman Archives Trust Inc. (WWAT), established in the Waikato in October 2006, collects and preserves historical materials relating to maternity services in New Zealand, ensuring these collections are accessible to interested people for research purposes. The Trust's work includes housing the archive and providing all the necessary sorting, preservation, cataloguing, development of finding aids, and promotion of collections. This work is supported by Birthspirit Ltd.

The majority of collections can be accessed without restriction. The repository is at the Cottage, 15 Te Awa Road, Tamahere on the outskirts of Hamilton, New Zealand.

Donations to WWAT of personal or organisational records are welcomed. These may include minutes of meetings, correspondence, submissions, diaries, casebooks, photographs, scrapbooks, memoirs and reminiscences, and audio or video recordings.

or deposited (legal ownership remains with the transferring organisation or person). It is anticipated that if someone 'deposited' materials this would be in perpetuity as funds are spent on the preservation and management of materials.

To discuss your contribution to the Wise Woman Archives Trust, please contact Maggie Banks (ph 07 856 4612 or email at wwat@ihug.co.nz).

Access to the archives is by appointment and collections are viewed on site.

Collections can be either donated (legal ownership is transferred to WWAT)