

WILSON Sir Thomas George
CMG
MD (Syd) MD (Adel) FRCS
(Edin) FRACS FRCOG FACS
1876-1958



Thomas George Wilson was born on 27th March 1876 in Armidale NSW. He was the 4th child of six children of Charles Graham and Annie Jane nee McBride. He was educated at the New England Grammar School and Sydney University. At university he rowed for Sydney University and played tennis for NSW. He graduated MBBS in 1899 and MD in 1904. He undertook post graduate study in London, Dublin and Vienna. He took the FRCS Edinburgh in 1901. Returning to Australia he moved to Adelaide and practised first as a physician and later as a surgeon. He married Alice May, daughter of (Sir) George Brookman at Christ Church in North Adelaide in 1902, but they later divorced. He was the honorary Gynaecologist at the Adelaide Hospital from 1902-1927 and honorary Obstetrician at the Queen's Home from 1903-1946. He established the first ante-natal clinic at the Adelaide Hospital in 1910. He was one of a group of doctors who helped found the Ru Rua Hospital on Barton Terrace in North Adelaide in 1910.

Wilson enlisted in the AIF on 19th October 1914. He was 6ft 1¼ins and weight 14st 4lb. He was appointed to the 1ASH and embarked for Egypt on the Kyarra. He served in Egypt, on the island of Lemnos and off the shore at Gallipoli when the unit was deployed on the 'Clan McGillivray' and subsequently the 'Alaunia'. He acquired enteric fever and was admitted to 1ASH, transferred to 19th General Hospital in Alexandria with the added complications of pleurisy and a left leg thrombosis. He was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital in Wandsworth on 23rd August 1915 before repatriation to Adelaide to the 7th AGH at Keswick Barracks Adelaide, where he was discharged medically unfit on 21st January 1916. Nevertheless Wilson continued in the army

and was promoted LTCOL and allotted as OC of the hospital ship Karoola on 12th May 1916 an appointment he continued to hold until early 1918. He was then appointed staff officer to Maj General RHJ Fetherston DGMS Australian Military Forces. He accompanied him on a tour through Canada, USA, UK, France, Switzerland, Italy Greece and Salonika. He was then posted to 1AGH in Rouen and Great Britain before returning to Adelaide and discharge early in 1919. He was issued the 14/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In 1923 Wilson re-married to Elsa May Cuzens and they had two sons one of whom was a surgeon and the other a diplomat. After the war Wilson returned to his clinical career and recommenced the ante-natal clinic which was moved to the Queen's Home in 1927 and named after him in 1932. He exerted a strong influence on the Queen's Home policy and development; he was on the committee of management from 1908 and its President from 1935-1950. He was generous with his resources and contributed funds for teaching and equipment for the Queen's Home. He endowed a travelling scholarship for postgraduates so that they may study Obstetrics and Gynaecology overseas; many South Australian specialists have benefited from the 'TG Wilson Travelling Scholarship in Obstetrics' of the University of Adelaide. He examined ways of reducing maternal mortality during an overseas tour in 1935 and when he returned lobbied for better medical training in obstetrics and gynaecology; to this end a full time director of obstetrics and gynaecology was appointed at the University of Adelaide in 1940 and ultimately the chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Adelaide University. He recognised the importance of nurse education and in 1905 was the founder of the SA branch of the Australasian Trained Nurses Association and was later their President and Patron. A keen golfer he was Captain and later President of the Royal Adelaide Golf Club. He was a founding fellow of the RACS and RCOG (London). He was decorated with the CMG in 1942 and knighted in 1950. Thomas George Wilson died on 15th March 1958 at his North Adelaide home. He was survived by his wife and two sons.

Source:

Love J. H., 'Wilson, Sir Thomas George (1876-1958)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wilson-sir-thomas-george-12051/text21615>.
<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=2015707>