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9th September, 1957

MEMORANDUM

DISPOSAL OF DRAINAGE FROM
BEACONSFIELD HOSPITAL

The Beaconsfield Hospital authorities are concerned with the problem of hygienic disposal of their drainage. At present the drainage flows beneath the road in front of the hospital and seeps across an area of waste land leaving a disagreeable scum on the surface.

Two schemes are suggested by the Health Department:-

1. Disposal of waste down a bore in front of the hospital.
2. Disposal down the old Ophir Mine workings, distant some 50 chains.

Although the first suggestion would save the laying of 50 chains of pipes, I do not think it practical. The rock likely to be encountered at depth would be a rather impervious slate or quartzite and even if faults and joints allowed the effluent to escape at first, the scum that collects in this would soon seal up any bore hole.

The second suggestion seems practicable. The Ophir Mine was apparently put down in a fault zone and down to 300 feet is still in broken material. The lowest level is at 460 feet and is 300 feet long. Local report has it that the mine was dry and this is quite probable. The shaft has been blocked and used as a rubbish tip. Before the piping was actually laid, it would be as well to unblock this and see where the water-level, if any, is in the shaft.

T. D. Hughes

(T. D. Hughes)
SENIOR GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
Department of Mines,
HOBART.